

From: Steve Perkins [Steve.Perkins@enterworks.com]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2009 11:03 AM
To: Burton, Jim
Cc: DEPT-PLANDEPT-PLANNING_COMMISSION; DEPT-PLANDEPT-
**PLANNING_DEPARTMENT; board@glbr.org; David Serley; Dennis Virts; Bob
& Daneen Smedile
Subject: RE: Lighting of Baseball Fields for New Park in Hamilton

Hi Jim,

I did attend the Planning Commission meeting held last Thursday, we got out of there at midnight – bless those people, their job takes dedication, and heart.

Thanks for the links below. I have a new appreciation for the process of growing poinsettias, and I truly understand the Elmore's concern. According to the expert from VA Tech who spoke last Thursday night, poinsettias can be affected by as little as .01 footcandles of lighting, they are very sensitive. To give you an idea how sensitive that is, moonlight is between .01 and .02 footcandles.

According to the study by Rust & Patton for the Scott Jenkins Memorial Park, the MUSCO lighting proposed for phase I will provide ambient light at the distance of the greenhouses at .000 footcandles. After phase II (lighting of all five fields), the ambient light at the distance of the greenhouses will be .001 footcandles. That is 1/10th what the VA Tech expert indicated as the threshold for poinsettias. This lighting is being used at Tillet now, and is verifiable/measurable. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.musco.com/permanent/lightstructuregreen.html#environment>

Having evaluated all of the facts, it is still the Elmore's livelihood on the line. Can we impose sleepless nights on a family who has been doing business for 37 years at the same location? I truly sympathize with them. I did some research on poinsettias as well, and, as with the links you provided, it seems common for poinsettia growers to utilize black shades in their greenhouses to provide the perfect conditions for flowering. I wonder with the traffic on Route 7 only ~100 feet away from the greenhouses if the Elmore's were already at risk for "light damage". It seems, with these extreme sensitivities to light, black shades could be needed by the Elmore's eventually as the area is developed over time, lighted ball fields or not.

As stated earlier, lighting the ball fields will greatly utilize the field use, making lighting a good investment to fully realize the benefits of the site. No lights from August through December greatly curtails the use of these fields in the Fall. And, Western Loudoun, supported by facts listed below, needs more lighted ball fields.

I strongly urge lighting the ball fields, and protecting the Elmore's business by providing them with black shades. It appeared this was the solution the Planning Commission was leaning toward, and was referred to committee to get more specifics on shade systems. I am encouraged by this. I believe both sides have legitimate needs/concerns.

Some additional facts learned last week:

-There were 17 speakers on the issue of lights for the Scott Jenkins Memorial Park. I believe it was the largest group that night.

- Available for the leagues, there are five lighted 90 foot baseball fields in Loudoun between Claude Moore Park and Tillet
- There is one lighted 90' field in Western (Fireman's Field) – but it is used by football in the Fall, and the high school has first dibs the rest of the year – it is partially available to the leagues at best, and rarely are the leagues able to book time
- The Fall season goes from Aug to end of October. As sunset is around 6:30pm in the Fall, the lack of lighting effectively eliminates use of the fields except for weekends during the Fall season
- Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth (GLBR) rostered 840 kids in '09, all GLBR kids are verified Loudoun residents
- Current lighting technology, spurred by these same controversies, has come a long way to mitigate light spillage. MUSCO lighting was even installed in Pima County Arizona, with perhaps the most stringent restrictions on ambient light – home of the International Dark-Sky Association

Thank you for continuing the dialog.

Sincerely,

Steve

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From: Steve Perkins [mailto:Steve.Perkins@enterworks.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 4:05 PM
To: Burton, Jim
Subject: RE: Lighting of Baseball Fields for New Park in Hamilton

Does the poinsettia grower have supporting evidence that the lighting affects the plants? We have evidence to the contrary.

Steve

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"Users should view this vendor as a best-of-breed MDM for Product Data" – Gartner Group

From: Burton, Jim [mailto:Jim.Burton@loudoun.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 2:10 PM
To: Steve Perkins
Subject: RE: Lighting of Baseball Fields for New Park in Hamilton

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Thank you for your email. The Board will likely approve lights for the fields at the new Scott Jenkins Memorial Park, albeit with conditions on their use. As the application is still under review by the Planning Commission, I have not yet seen the Staff report so I cannot comment on any information within it.

With regards to equity in recreational infrastructure, I would note that no more than 16 out of 71 of County-owned or operated fields currently have lights. As all of the fields planned for construction on Fields Farm are to be lighted fields, it may be that any inequity will be on the Eastern end.

Best regards,

Jim Burton
Supervisor, Blue Ridge District

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From: Steve Perkins [mailto:Steve.Perkins@enterworks.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2009 5:48 PM
To: BOS
Subject: Lighting of Baseball Fields for New Park in Hamilton

Hello,

I am writing in support of lighting for the new baseball park in Hamilton.

As a parent of two kids living in Loudoun County, I know how difficult it is to find space for games and practices. For 10 years now I have been actively involved in the baseball leagues, sitting on boards, running concession stands, etc. With 88,000 kids in our county, space is a premium. Our Board of Supervisors again has a great opportunity to help the kids of Loudoun County, particularly of Western Loudoun, by taking full advantage of a very generous gift from the Virts family. The Virts donated 23.6 acres in Hamilton in honor of their late nephew, Scott Jenkins. However, a political battle has broken out over the issue of lighting for these new fields. It is unfortunate, simply lighting one field would allow us to provide 25% additional games or practice time per year. Furthermore, Western Loudoun continues to lag when it comes to this kind of infrastructure appropriation. We ask that the Board support the needs of the 840 families directly impacted by this decision.

I believe the issue of the "damage to the poinsettias" was put to bed as the lighting plan provided to the county showed that the light from the sports park onto the greenhouses would be less than moonlight.

Again, please consider the great need for supporting our youth and their families – these are positive programs that enrich our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Perkins
311 Lake View Way NW
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